DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS VARIOUS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Honor waits, o'er all the earth, The art that calls her harvests forth.—BRYANT.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1849. NO. 15.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

LATE APPLES.

To the fruit-grower, the subject of late apples is of much interest. We have no apples in the market; the old ones are gone, and the new only partially grown. The first that we get from the south are worthless, as they are picked green, and become prematurely ripened on the way, or rather they begin to grow soft as they are tending to decay. They are worse than useless, producing diseases. Ripe fruit is healthful, but green is destructive to health. Dried apple is now used, but it is a poor substitute for fresh apples, as to its palatableness, and some suppose that it is not favorable to health.

This is the season for small fruits, such as strawberries, cherries, gooseberries, currants; but though of the highest excellence, they are transient and uncertain, from season or weather, and do not supply the place of the apple, as a staple article for pies, puddings, &c.

Any information on late apples will be acceptable. *What is the best late apple?* We name this subject for consideration, hoping that it will claim more attention, not with a view of giving definite information, as we cannot do it without further experience; and there is not in the country a man who can answer this question satisfactorily, for we have several late apples that have not been well tested as to climate, bearing, fairness, &c.

BALDWIN. — This apple, which ranks higher than any other as a winter apple in this section, combining numerous excellent properties, generally begins to fail about the first of March, growing mealy at the core; though it continues tolerably good a month or two longer. And sometimes it sells the latter part of May at five dollars per barrel, which is far more than it is worth, as it has a fair appearance externally when its good properties are gone.

ROXBURY RUSSET. — This is the principal late apple now cultivated in New England, also in some sections of the Middle and Western States; yet it is rather difficult to grow, and when well grown, the quality is not very good, either for the table or kitchen. It is only a moderate grower; it requires a very moist, rich soil; and in an unfavorable season, it is one of the most liable to fail, sometimes failing totally when most other kinds succeed. As a dessert apple, it is so dry that we seldom eat one, even when no others can be obtained. After cooking this apple, it remains firm and dry. Yet, owing to its keeping later than other apples, it sells well late in spring and in early summer, sometimes keeping till midsummer. Many who have cultivated this fruit on dry soils, and some on medial soils, have abandoned it.

LADIES' SWEETING. — This is one of the most beautiful of apples, and for the dessert it has no superior. For baking it is pretty good, but rather soft. It promises to be the finest late sweeting, in climates to which it is adapted. It originated in New York. Only a few have been raised in New England, and those indicate that it is well adapted to this part of the country. It is now on trial in almost every part of the fruit region. It keeps into May. We now have a fine specimen, which C. Downing, Esq., of Newburgh, N. Y., sent us last fall. The tree is a tolerably good grower, and good bearer.

NORTHERN SPY. — The fame of this apple has spread over the country, and the trees and scions have been disseminated widely. It is large, handsome, excellent, and remarkably hardy; a good grower and bearer. The fruit keeps into summer. In New York, where this fruit is grown, some cultivators say that high culture and close pruning are necessary to bring the fruit up to a fair state; others say that in this respect it is no more difficult to raise than most other kinds. In fact, there has been a difference in opinion between those who have trees to sell, and those who have them not. Man is a creature of circumstances. This fruit will doubtless bear in several places in New England this season.

TEWKSBURY WINTER BLUSH is a beautiful apple, of very small size and ordinary quality, keeping into summer. On account of its late keeping and beauty, it is raised in the state of New York, and exported to England.

NEWTOWN PIPPIN. — This is a far-famed fruit, as it is raised in some favorable locations in New York, under high culture, and a few of the best selected and sent to England, where it brings a great price.

In most all parts of the country, particularly in New England, it fails, as the tree is a slow grower, poor bearer, and the fruit generally knurly, and often inferior in quality. During the last winter and spring, these apples were, in this market, selling at a less price than the Baldwins. We do not believe that the growers of this fruit can show so much profit to the acre, as produced by the Baldwin or Greening.

We have had several specimens of late-keeping apples, sent into our office by dealers who bought them in New York, when purchasing there last fall; but generally they are dry and tough; and the same objections apply to several kinds which we have received from our friends in this section.

The five following kinds we have described in the American Fruit Book; as they are new, but little is known of them.

Shawmut. — This is a good apple till the latter part of May, but it is too small for market.

Norfolk. — A fine pleasant little apple, in August, the second season; a good grower. This is all that we know about it.

Orange. — Raised in New Hampshire. This keeps till July. They are rather acid, and excellent for cooking, but rather small for the market.

Red Russet. — We had a barrel of this fruit last fall, and we have a little of it left. It keeps about as well as the Roxbury Russet, is of the same size, and much handsomer. It is better than the Roxbury Russet both for cooking and for the dessert. We find it an excellent grower, and it is called a good bearer. Mr. N. P. Morrison, of Somerville, who is distinguished as a successful fruit-grower, gave us a specimen of fruit and some scions, raised in his vicinity, which he thought might be identical with the Red Russet. The fruit appeared precisely the same, but we thought the wood of the scions was different. We shall examine further into this subject. Mr. M. pronounced the Red Russet, or *Baldwin Russet*, as he sometimes called it, a very valuable late-keeping apple.

Table Greening. — We know but little of this fruit, though it originated in our native town, Cornish, Maine. Soon after we became acquainted with it, we left that section, and the old tree died, so that we have had to wait for some young trees to come into bearing. We have had these (raised in Maine) in fine condition the second year, in September. Size, medial; flesh rather hard, but very good for eating and cooking, retaining its qualities remarkably well. It is a good grower, and though our young trees have been rather long in coming into bearing, from causes unknown, the blossom buds which we find on the wood of two years' growth, indicate that it is an early bearer. We have disseminated this variety widely for trial, and we wish for our friends to report when it bears, and is tested in the proper season. At present we recommend it for trial only, though it is very promising, keeping better than any other apple that we ever tried.

Agriculture is the art of arts: without it man would be a savage, and the world a wilderness.

THE PROSPECT FOR FRUIT.

The prospect for fruit has changed greatly since early in June. The sudden and extremely hot weather, with severe drought, cut short the strawberry crop one half. The same causes, with frequent cold north-east winds, greatly injured the cherries, causing large quantities to fall when partially grown. Apples, pears, and plums have been blasted to a great extent, and much injured by insects. On the whole, the fruit crop will be light, and owing to fears of the cholera, the demand is light also.

PRUNING.

Summer pruning is sometimes necessary in order to give form and proper direction to nursery trees, and standard trees may need thinning in order to expose the fruit to light and air. Grape-vines may need thinning, owing to a want of sufficient pruning in the spring or last fall. But in pruning trees thoroughly, particularly if large limbs are to be cut off, it is best to defer the business till the last of July, August, or the former part of September.

Late in summer and early in autumn, the bark does not peel as it does early in the summer, when it often starts from the tree which is injured, by going into trees and stepping on limbs with hard shoes. The sap will ooze out of some trees early in summer, which not only injures them generally, but it often causes the wounded part to decay.

But in late pruning, the wood, when the branch is cut off, becomes sound and well seasoned; and though it may not heal over so readily as when cut early in summer or spring, it remains in a healthy state. This is the main consideration. What would it avail for a surgeon to heal a wound at the surface while it was festering at the bottom?

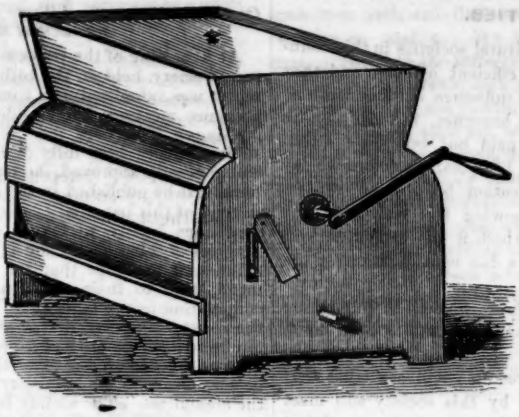
Late in summer and early in fall is not only the most favorable season for the benefit of the trees, but it is a convenient and pleasant season for the operation.

OSAGE ORANGE.

A writer in the Valley Farmer, who dates Iowa, states that the Osage Orange is too tender for that climate, and that otherwise it is not fit for a hedge, as it forms a tree, not a shrub. He says, that a farmer who sowed thirty dollars' worth of seed, three years ago, has only about a dozen plants left, as each year has thinned them off.

A NOBLE SENTIMENT.

The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs, the better I am pleased with them; insomuch that I can nowhere find so great satisfaction as in those innocent and useful pursuits. In indulging those feelings, I am led to reflect how much more delightful to an undebauched mind is the task of making improvements on the earth, than all the vain glory which can be acquired from ravaging it by the most uninterrupted career of conquests. — *Washington's Letters to Arthur Young.*



THERMOMETER CHURN.

In churning, it is of great importance to have the cream or milk of a proper temperature, which is about 62 degrees; and this churn affords this advantage with convenience, despatch, and exactness. The churn is encircled with a case for water, by which the desirable temperature may be obtained, and indicated by the thermometer permanently fixed in the end of the churn, where it is not liable to injury.

This churn is simple, light, portable, and durable, easily operated and cleansed. The price is moderate. They are made of various sizes.

POKE ROOT, OR AMERICAN HELLEBORE.

(*Veratrum viride.*)

Panicle downy; partial bractes longer than their pedicles. Segments of the corolla thickened on the inside at base.

A large, green, leafy plant, not uncommon in meadows and swamps. The root is thick and fleshy, its upper portion tunicated, its lower half solid, and sending forth a multitude of large, whitish radicles. The stem is from three to five feet high, roundish, solid, striated, and pubescent. Throughout the greater part of its length, it is closely invested with the sheathing bases of the leaves. The lower leaves are large, from half a foot to a foot long, oval, acuminate, pubescent, strongly plaited and nerved; the lower part of their edges meeting round their stem. The upper leaves become gradually narrower, and the uppermost, which perform the office of bractes, are linear-lanceolate. The flowers are numerous, and distributed in compound racemes, axillary from the upper leaves, and terminal; the whole forming a sort of panicle. Peduncles roundish, downy. Bractes boat-shaped, acuminate, downy. The pedicle of each flower is many times shorter than its bracte. Calix, none. Corolla divided into six green, oval, acute, nerved segments, of which the alternate ones are longest. All the segments are contracted at base into a sort of claw with a thickened or cartilaginous edge. Stamens six with recurved filaments and roundish, two lobed anthers. Germs three, cohering, with acute recurved styles as long as the stamens. A part of the flowers are barren, and have only the rudiments of styles, so that the plant is strictly polygamous. The seed-vessel consists of three capsules united together, separating at top and opening on their inner side. Seeds flat, imbricated. — June. — Perennial.

The root of this plant, when taken internally, produces violent effects, and is dangerous in considerable quantities. It is chiefly used in the country as an external application in cutaneous affections. From its great affinity in habit to the Veratrum album, a European species, which has lately acquired considerable celebrity as a remedy in gout, the American plant is particularly entitled to the attention of physicians. — *Bigelow's Plants.*

GRASSES.

Ribbon Grass (*Phalaris Americana*) is the beautiful striped grass occasionally used for garden borders. It has been highly recommended for swamps, to which, if transplanted, it is alleged that it will supersede all other grasses, and afford a fine quality of hay, of an appearance quite different from the upland growth. The writer tried several experiments, both with the seed and roots, on a clay marsh, but without success. Its proper pabulum is probably a rich carbonaceous soil, such as is found in an alluvial swamp or peat bed.

Muskeet Grass, found growing on the plains of Mexico and Texas, is considered one of the best of the indigenous grasses. I have seen it growing on the plantations of Louisiana, where it has been successfully transplanted.

Grama is held in the highest estimation by the Mexicans. It attains a medium height, and is deemed the most nutritious of the natural grasses in our south-western frontier prairies, in California, and parts of Mexico. It grows on dry, hard, gravelly soils, on side hills, the swells of the prairies, and the gentle elevations in the valleys. The principal value is found in the numerous seeds, which are retained in the pods with great tenacity, long after they are ripe, serving as a luxurious food for all the graminivorous beasts and fowls of the regions where it is known.

Buffalo Grass is found intermixed with the grama, and seldom grows more than a few inches in height. It forms a thick, soft herbage, on which the traveller walks with ease, and reposes, when weary, with delight. It yields a rich sustenance to countless herds of wild horses and cattle, buffaloes, deer, and antelopes. — *Allen's American Farm Book.*

LIBRARIES FOR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

There are many agricultural societies in this country, conducted by very efficient officers, and they are exercising a powerful influence on the cause of improvement in various branches, but we believe that they have generally paid but very little attention to the formation of libraries; therefore we lay the following communication before our readers with much pleasure, knowing full well that the respectable source from which it has emanated will lead other associations to a due consideration of the subject.

The example of the Essex Society in publishing their transactions in permanent form has been much commended, and it has been followed, in many cases, with the most favorable results; and we trust that the plan now suggested by this society will meet with approval by other kindred associations, and that they will cheerfully respond to the proposal to exchange works, and thus aid each other in promoting the interest of each, and of the agricultural community generally. The success of Mr. Vattemare, to whom Mr. Proctor refers, and the happy results of his labors in promoting an exchange of books between different associations and different nations, are wonderful, and should encourage societies to carry on the same plan of reciprocity.

When a society has once formed a library, it will be constantly increasing, from donations of valuable works from generous individuals, who possess ample means, and will take pleasure in contributing to the encouragement of useful enterprises.

We find that files of agricultural journals are of great value for reference, and some of them increase in value as they increase in age.

We copy a few preliminary remarks from the president, and the official doings of the Essex Agricultural Society on this subject, and we commend them for consideration and action.

To the Editor of the New England Farmer.

Sir: At a late meeting of the trustees of the Essex Agricultural Society, a report on the formation of a library for the use of the society was approved, and ordered to be published in your paper. The purpose of this publication is, to bring the plan of operation to the notice of all those who may be engaged in similar enterprises, and to secure its adoption, so far as it may be found worthy.

The whole community are filled with astonishment at the success that has attended the labors of Mr. Vattemare, in collecting and exchanging books. Why cannot something of the same kind be done by agricultural societies? Pardon me in asking your attention to it, and soliciting from you a few words, *editorial*, in coöperation. The success that has attended the efforts of the New York State Society in the formation of a library, encourages the hope that farmers in Massachusetts may also succeed, if they will make a beginning. I think, sir, if you had access to a library containing all the agricultural journals that have been published, even in our own country, you would value the privilege most highly.

Very truly yours,

J. W. PROCTOR.

Danvers, *June* 23, 1849.

Report of the Trustees,

On the Formation of a Library for the Use of the Essex Agricultural Society.

At a meeting of the trustees of the Essex Agricultural Society, held on the 15th instant, the following report was submitted by a committee appointed, at a previous meeting, to consider the expediency of forming a library for the use of the society. The subject having been fully discussed by the trustees, and generally approved, the report was accepted, and ordered to be published in the New England Farmer. A copy of this paper will be sent by the secretary to gentlemen known to take a strong interest in the progress of this society, and in agricultural improvement, with the hope that the subject may so commend itself to their notice as to enlist their active coöperation in the enterprise, by the loan or gift to the society of agricultural books or pamphlets. Similar contributions are also respectfully solicited from all who are disposed to favor the object. These may be sent either to the secretary or to any member of the committee. The society is already in possession of some valuable works on agriculture; and all that is needed to lay the foundation of a library, to be free for the use of its members, is an addition to the number. The means will thus be furnished for the further diffusion of agricultural knowledge, and the consequent advancement of agricultural skill, among our farmers. And it is with the belief, that to improve the mind is one of the surest ways to improve the soil, this appeal is made by the trustees.

ALLEN W. DODGE,
Secretary Essex Ag. Soc.

Hamilton, *June* 20, 1849.

Report of the Committee.

The committee, to whom was referred the subject of the formation of a library for the use of the society, are of the opinion that immediate measures should be taken to lay the foundation for such a library.

The reasons why this should be done, have been so fully stated by the secretary, in his Essay which has been published, (see Transactions for 1848, pp. 105 to 111,) that to dilate thereon would be superfluous. If they fail to convince, your committee feel that it will not be in their power to do so; — but being themselves convinced, they deem it to be their duty to urge upon the trustees the importance of the subject. They ask leave to present a few brief considerations, calculated to facilitate a favorable beginning.

For the present, the care of the library can best be left with the secretary. In each of the volumes should be placed a suitable label, descriptive of the ownership, and so firmly attached as to be incapable of severance. A suitable record should be made of all books received, especially of all books presented to the library, together with the names of the donors, and the circumstances under which the books were given. The publication annually of a list of such donations will answer the double purpose of informing the members of what books are on hand, and of encouraging them to add to the number. Gentlemen who have procured valuable books and become familiar with their contents, will take pleasure in granting a favor to others by placing the books in the society's library. There are many who would find a higher gratification in doing this, than they ever found in the perusal of the works. Let the former have an opportunity to gratify the ardent desires of the latter.

Let the secretary be instructed to open a correspondence with the secretaries of other societies, and publishers of works on agriculture, and forward to them copies of our own publications; — the consequence will be, that soon the society will be in pos-

session of complete sets of all the agricultural publications of the country. Already have the states of New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio, put forward their annual volumes of digested agricultural science — an example that will be likely to be followed in every state of the Union. Access to complete sets of such publications will be of inestimable value. Let an invitation be extended to all who rightly appreciate the object, to make such contributions as their convenience and ability will admit, and when the enterprise shall be properly started, there cannot be a doubt it will be liberally supported. At all events, it is an experiment worth trying, a failure in which can do no one any harm.

We would recommend the appointment of a committee on the library annually, whose duty it shall be to devise means for its increase; to make a selection of such books as it is expedient to purchase; and to make such regulations, from time to time, in relation to their use, as shall be deemed most expedient and proper.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN W. PROCTOR,
DAVID CHOATE,
GARDNER B. PERRY, } *Committee.*

SALEM, *June 15*, 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

PEACH-TREES.

MR. EDITOR: I have frequently heard it asserted, by some of our most experienced cultivators of the peach, that the decay of this valuable tree is in a great measure owing to the practice of budding or grafting, as imperfect union takes place, a sickly growth is the consequence, and the diseased tree is then rendered more liable to external injuries and of the worm which complete its destruction.

So far as my limited knowledge extends, this is the case, in a great measure. In my peach orchard, which contains about one hundred trees, I have a few natural trees, most of which are equal to our best varieties; and this spring they are healthy, and are loaded with young fruit, while most of my budded trees were more or less injured by the severity of our past winter, and but few of them have much young fruit on them. Now, I think, if we would have healthy peach-trees, we must not do violence to nature. We must cultivate from the stone; and although we might find some bad and worthless fruit, we shall have much that is excellent, and obtain new varieties by planting the stones of those only which are very superior. I have obtained fine peaches the third year from planting the stone, without grafting or budding.

ROCKINGHAM.

EDITORIAL REMARKS. — Budding or grafting trees renders them less hardy, shorter-lived, and generally of a smaller size. Our long-lived and very large cherry-trees are, generally, mazards, which is a common term for a natural cherry-tree. Budded peach-trees are more tender in fruit and buds than natural ones. One cause of the tenderness of budded peach-trees is the use of buds from a foreign country, or a warmer region in our own country.

If stones from excellent fruit are planted, they will generally yield good fruit; and if they are taken from good natural fruit, they will be still more sure to yield fine fruit. By proper attention in collecting stones from superior seedlings or natural trees, where they are not liable to mix in the blossom, and testing them, valuable fixed varieties may be obtained that can be relied on to produce their like, as well as by budding and grafting.

We have six or eight kinds that yield nearly the same from seed, and they are equal to any budded varieties in quality. We have hundreds of some kinds growing in the nursery, that are perfectly uniform in wood, growth, leaf, glands, &c. They have all originated in the north, and show a hardiness beyond budded varieties which are from warmer climates. We have several others on experiment, and hope to obtain, in a short time, a complete assortment of seedlings extending through the season, and affording every desirable variety; so that we can dispense with budding altogether.

With proper attention to selecting natural peaches, and choosing a suitable location and soil, and pursuing a judicious mode of cultivation, the peach culture would be far more successful in New England. Many now cultivate without proper regard to these important considerations.

For the New England Farmer.

HAYING — HORSE-RAKES.

MR. EDITOR: I am of the opinion that many farmers allow their grass to become too ripe before it is cut. It is my impression that it is best to cut nearly all kinds of grass as soon as the largest bulk of it is in blossom, as in the formation and ripening of the seed, the stem must lose much of its nutritive matter, and will be less tender and palatable to animals. The largest amount of clover heads will usually be found in bloom when about one third of them are turned brown. Herdsgrass may become quite ripe without losing its nourishing properties; but the stem grows dry and woody, and stock do not relish it as well as that which is earlier cut; and if it has grown rank, they will not eat it up very closely, unless they are kept rather short of feed. Red top may become equally as ripe as herdsgrass, and still have its value less impaired. I believe many are led to suppose that late-cut hay contains more nutriment, for the reason that the stem, becoming hard and wiry, is rendered less palatable, and consequently our animals will not eat of it as freely. In my remarks upon the time of cutting grass, I would have reference to the kinds most common in this section.

In curing hay, I aim to preserve as much of the green color and natural juice as is practicable, and not have it mow-burn. To effect this, it should not be exposed to the dew or rain after it has begun to make, nor for a long time to the sun. As soon as the ground is dry between the swaths, they should be spread, and when the grass is thoroughly wilted, or about one third made, it should be placed in the cock, where it will generally very soon begin to sweat. It should be kept in this state from twelve to thirty-six hours, according to the character of the hay and weather. The cocks should then be well shook out, and in from two to four hours of favorable weather, with once turning, they will usually be sufficiently cured for the barn. I think this the best method for curing all kinds of hay, and particularly clover.

Hay cured in this manner is more tender, sweet, nutritious, and palatable; besides, we may save many leaves and heads that would be lost were it cured wholly by the sun and air. And another advantage is, that hay sweated in the cock is much less liable to heat in the mow. Any one may satisfy himself of this fact by observing how much less likely to

heat is hay that has stood and sweated upon the load. And another advantage of hay early cut and cured as above, is, that it is more healthy; keeping the stomach and bowels of our stock in good condition, without the necessity of feeding roots; and I believe in a better condition than would be possible to keep them on late-cut hay with the addition of roots. The practice of treading hay much in the mow, is a bad one, unless the want of room strongly demands it, as hay thus pressed down is far more liable to heat.

I can fully respond to your remark in the last number of the New England Farmer upon salting hay. Those who use salt to preserve hay, should use fine salt, as the hay may become of so high a temperature as to injure its quality before coarse salt would dissolve and allay the fermentation.

I think much the best way of preserving hay imperfectly cured, is, to mix with it old hay, straw, or corn fodder, in the proportion of from two to four hundred of one of these to a ton of new hay. I have frequently put up hay in quite a moist, green state, and by mixing in layers of old hay, have ever had it come out very bright, sweet, and heavy in the spring. I believe old hay summered over, and used for this purpose, will pay twenty-five per cent. Straw or corn fodder will answer equally well, but it gives the hay a slovenly appearance when feeding it out.

One word in relation to horse-rakes. I have used both the revolving and wire-tooth rake, and think that they make a great saving of time; yet there is one strong objection against the use of the latter, which is, that on ground that is top-dressed and newly seeded, or where there is fog or dead grass, it will scrape up and mix with the hay much dirt, old stubble, and fog, which is injurious to all animals that eat of the hay, and very much so to horses — often producing the heaves; and hay intended for horses should by all means be raked with the revolving or hand rake, unless the turf is very free from these injurious substances. I think more cases of the heaves are brought on by horses eating dirty, musty, and lifeless hay than by any other cause.

EBENEZER BRIDGE.

Pompret, Vt., *June* 26, 1849.

HONEY-DEW.

There have been a variety of opinions, and thousands of people are to this day ignorant in regard to what is the cause of honey-dew. For many years I was taught to believe that it fell from heaven, as did the manna on which the children of Israel subsisted during their journey in the wilderness. But upon a close search for more than four years, and a critical examination, I find this is not the case.

I reason as follows: If it falls from heaven, as other dew, why does it not fall upon all trees, leaves, and shrubs alike? which is not the case. It cannot be found upon buckeye, polk leaves, and many others. And another reason is the fact that there are often bushes whose leaves are covered with honey-dew, and this, too, while they stand directly under large, bushy trees, so that it would be impossible for honey-dew to fall on the smaller shrubs, which are so rich with it, directly under them.

I next conjectured that it might be owing to certain states of weather. But the same objections met this conjecture. Why is it not on all leaves that are subject to the same influence of weather? I come now to the point.

There is a certain insect that is formed and grows on the under side of the hickory leaf. When this insect comes to maturity, it is a small yellow gnat, with black wings. It can skip from one leaf to another, and it crawls over the leaf and throws out this honey in specks and rows over the surface of the leaf; and as it crosses and recrosses its path, it drips this deposit in the same place till it forms a small drop. When the wind blows and shakes the leaf, the dew spreads itself in splotches on the leaf. I have seen this gnat throw out this honey. I have taken it before it could crawl, crushed it on the leaf, and found it rich with honey. I have tasted it, and found it sweet as honey.

These gnats do not like to stay on those leaves that do not hatch them. Therefore the most honey will be found on hickory leaves, as this leaf is a favorite of theirs. This accounts for the fact of some leaves having more honey-dew on them than others.

Yours, with great respect,

ABRAHAM MILICE.

— *Valley Farmer.*

POTATOES EXHAUST THE SOIL.

Eds. Cultivator: I was taught, when a boy, that potatoes were not an exhausting crop, drawing but little strength from the ground. I have always taken this for granted, and I have made no experiment on the subject, more than to satisfy myself that they would not succeed well a second year on the same ground. If you should conclude that I have been indiscreet in taking any thing for granted, and passing on forty years without examination, I could not find much fault with your conclusion. But to the subject. In the summer of 1847, a neighboring farmer requested me to go into his lot and look at his clover. On reaching his lot, he showed me a field of clover, one part of which was of a vigorous growth, while the other part was small — not more than half, if more than a third, as large as the other, and the line distinctly marked through the lot. The clover was sown with oats the previous year. The year before that, my friend informed me, that the part of the field where the clover was best, was planted with corn; while the other part was devoted to potatoes. The whole, he said, was manured and cultivated just alike, and the clover was sown on all at the same time, and from the same parcel of seed. Here was a thing so different from all my former notions, that I began to think I had, all my life, been laboring under a mistake.

I had several times had corn on a part of the field, and potatoes on the other part; and had noticed that the subsequent grass crop was much the best where the corn had grown; but so deep was the impression that corn was a greater exhauster than potatoes, that I attributed the difference in the grass to other causes. At the time my attention was turned to my neighbor's clover, I had a piece of ground, which was seeded with grass, the previous summer with oats, after a crop of potatoes. The ground was well manured for the potatoes, and had previously borne large grass crops. I was much disappointed with the grass crop on this piece, and after mowing a very light crop two seasons, I last summer turned in the sward and sowed grass seed: whether this will improve the crop of grass remains to be seen. Will some of your correspondents, who have made observations, enlighten us on this subject? R. R. P.

Manchester, Ct., *Feb.* 15, 1849.

— *Albany Cultivator.*

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — It is well known that potatoes do not bear a succession of crops without very high manuring. They are very exhausting as it relates to their own crop to follow; they are also very exhausting in regard to clover as a succeeding crop, and it may be the same with some other crops. But because it will not bear a succession of crops, and is exhausting for clover, it should

not be taken for granted that it is exhausting generally, for some crops flourish well after potatoes.

Some years since, a correspondent communicated the result of an experiment, and asked for an explanation of one so strange. He planted a piece of land partly to corn and partly to potatoes, and then sowed to grass. On the corn land, the herdsgrass succeeded well, and the clover failed; on the potato land, the reverse appeared.

We accounted for the difference in this way: In the potato, particularly in the top, is much lime; and this substance was exhausted by the potato crop, and this element being deficient, the clover failed, as lime is one of the principal constituents of clover.

Corn contains a large quantity of silex or sand, which is dissolved by potash, and taken up into the plant, forming the outside of the stalk, and giving it stiffness and firmness. This is the same material as glass, and some persons in working among cornstalks have cut their fingers with this substance. Herdsgrass also contains a large quantity of silex, and it has a stiff stalk. On lands composed mostly of mud, there is a deficiency of sand, and herdsgrass lacks firmness and falls to the ground when only partially grown. As corn and herdsgrass require a large portion of sand and potash, it may account for the failure of one after the other, where there is not a good supply of these ingredients in the soil.

Further experiments and nice observations are necessary to show that potatoes are generally very exhausting.

THE GREYLOCK POTATO.

We are indebted to Hon. A. Foote, of Williamstown, Mass., for a barrel of his new variety of potato, called the *Greylock*. They are well shaped and of good size. We have tried some for the table, and though they were evidently injured by exposure to the air, they were nearly equal to any other with which we are acquainted. We shall have them planted in such a way as to give them a fair trial. Mr. F. gives us the following account of their origin and habit of growth: "It is an accidental cross between the Carter and Mercer, — taking the complexion of its skin from the dark color of the Mercer, and that of its flesh from the whiteness of the Carter. It is a vigorous grower, produces as well as the Peach Blow, [Western Red,] and in texture and flavor is not excelled, in my opinion, by any known variety. Side by side, the last season, the tops of my Peach Blows were badly blighted, while those of my Greylocks remained in all their freshness. Time of ripening somewhat early, but not so early as that of the Mercer. Like all the finer varieties, it is subject (here) to the 'potato disease,' but in a less degree than either of its parent varieties. Its origin is dated back four years." — *Albany Cultivator.*

THE INFLUENCE OF AGRICULTURE.

We have occasionally given valuable extracts from the address of General Josiah Newhall, before the Essex Agricultural Society, last fall. Here follows another, showing the very salutary moral influence which agriculture has on the nature of man: —

The pursuit of agriculture is not only favorable to man's physical well-being, but is eminently conducive to the improvement of his moral nature. The farmer is that favored being who is permitted, as it were, to stand in the laboratory of the Infinite One. While many of those engaged in other useful and important occupations are necessarily confined within the narrow limits of their study or workshop, his office or place of business is the vast temple of nature. He seems, more than others, by his daily occupation, to be admitted to nearer approaches to Him, whose humble coöperator he is, in producing the means of sustaining life. While the artist and mechanic, by their skill and ingenuity, as they operate upon dead matter, can produce results in accordance with their wishes, he feels that, in dealing with the vital principle, without the direct smiles of Heaven upon his labors, he can produce nothing. When the rain is withheld, and the "heavens become as brass, and the earth as iron," and vegetation seems to be perishing, how often is his eye directed to the horizon, that perchance he may see, as did the servant of the prophet, a cloud rising, though not larger than a man's hand, and giving promise of the needful blessing! He beholds, therefore, with the deepest interest, the progress of vegetation from the opening of the vernal season to the closing autumn. When the mighty forces of nature are quiescent, he sees their silent energy in the beaming sun and the gentle zephyr. And in their awful manifestations, he recognizes in the lightning's gleam the glance of that eye whose all-pervading sight reads the unspoken language of the heart! And in the bursting thunder, and the fearful earthquake, he hears, with awe, the accents of "the voice that shakes all nature's frame."

The volume of nature is wide spread before him; and whatever may be the dogmas which men may have derived from other sources respecting the character of the Creator, he here reads in this "elder scripture" the impressive and all-subduing lesson that God is good; that his paternal care is extended to every creature; and that all, from man to the humblest insect, are the monuments of his exhaustless love.

With such exhibitions daily before him, and with a knowledge of the divine economy in the natural system, where every thing changes, but nothing is lost, — where from apparent annual death arise new forms of beauty and loveliness, — the farmer, after a life well spent in the pursuit originally assigned him, bows to the law of his being, wraps his mantle about him, and lies down in the sleep of death, with the most unshaken faith in the accordant lessons of nature, and of revealed religion, that he shall awake in those celestial scenes, the glories of which "eye hath not seen nor ear heard."

THE APPLICATION OF LIME.

The use of lime as a remedy for mildew among cucumbers, and the disease of the potato, is highly recommended by English writers, and no doubt, judiciously applied, will prove of much value in this department of horticulture. Water in which lime has been slacked or soaked is efficacious in all possible ways for the destruction of insect life. The syringe, applied with it to trees infested with caterpillars, soon clears it altogether. Sprinkled on grass lawns, which it whitens till the rain washes it off, it drives the worms down, or brings them to the surface very quickly. Syringing plants, says the Horticultural Magazine, which have the bug, or wall fruit trees, (they are sometimes covered with ants, earwigs, small caterpillars,) and afterwards with clean water, is of great service, and lime dusted, or lime-water sprinkled, on gooseberry and currant-trees, cleans them as completely as if they had never been attacked. Laid round a bed liable to the attacks of wandering snails and slugs, it prevents

them from crossing the boundary; but it requires renewal, because its caustic qualities are lost in time. Ploughed into land, or forked into beds infested with grubs, it has the best possible effect; and where the garden is bounded by a hedge, which is the most harboring of all receptacles for vermin, there is no better means of destroying the greater part of them than sousing it well with lime-water, by means of a garden engine. There can be no mistake in lime-water for this purpose; because you may let the water take up as much lime as it can, only it must be used clear. Lime is one of the best substances to mix with manures of all sorts: it absorbs that which would be wasted; it disinfects the mass; it makes the most offensive matter inoffensive. A layer of night soil and a layer of lime would be as harmless as so much common earth. It is impossible, therefore, to overrate the usefulness of this substance in the garden or in the farm; and the more the public begin to understand the value of the sewerage of the metropolis, the contents of cesspools and drains, the more will they also recognize the value of that substance which will render the most nauseous of all waste harmless, and prepare it for the earth which requires it. Lime is of such efficacy in the way of disinfecting any disagreeable production, and counteracting infection in every shape, that one of the most early precautions against the approach of contagious disease, is to lime-wash the brick walls of all workhouses and public buildings where the lower orders congregate. It is even said that the brick walls of the chief apartments in union houses, are not covered with plaster, or other matter, because they should take the lime-water readily; and this hint may not be lost on those who house and provide for many working people during the summer season. Lime-wash the walls, and use lime to disinfect any thing that might become a nuisance. — *Farmer and Mechanic.*

EXTENSIVE FLOUR BARREL MANUFACTORY.

We learn from the Oswego Com. Times, that Messrs. Humphrey and Dodge, having secured the right for the state of New York to use improved patent machinery for the construction of barrels, have established an extensive manufactory at Kasoag, in this county, on the head waters of Fish Creek, in the town of Williamstown. It employs from fifty to seventy-five men, and turns out easily four hundred flour barrels in a day. They are manufactured entirely by machinery, each stave taking, in the process of manufacturing, the same position it occupies in the barrel when set up; consequently all the barrels must be precisely alike. All the staves are of the same width, and after they have been seasoned, are passed through the finishing machine, where they are planed, joined, crozed and champered. The planing gives the barrel a beautiful appearance; the croze is similar to the croze for tight work, and the chime is left thick and strong. The barrel varies in shape from the article now in use, and is supposed to have many advantages on that account. It is about one and a half inches shorter, and has an eighteen inch head, with the same sized bilge as other barrels. On account of their form, one fifteenth is gained in storage, and at the same time, the barrel being fuller in the quarter, will allow one hundred and ninety-six pounds of flour to be packed looser than in the present shape. The heading is also passed through machinery, which gives it the same accuracy as the staves. Oswego affords the largest market for flour barrels in the world, requiring for its own use at least a million of barrels per annum, besides the ordinary Canadian demand, and the demand for other lake ports on the American side. The establishment of Messrs. Humphrey and Dodge is situated eligibly for water power and cheap and abundant material, about thirty miles from Oswego, on the line of the Rome Plank Road to that city. — *Farmer and Mechanic.*

WATER FOR BEES.

Bees make a free use of water, and they usually have a watering-place, where all the bees of the apiary resort. We have seen fifty at the watering-place at one time. According to our observations, they do not go to the water, as it is in a body, but they go within a foot or a few inches of it and then suck the moisture from the mud, or little bank that rises from the water. Mr. Miner, in his most excellent work on bees, which we would earnestly recommend to every bee-keeper, makes the following remarks on water and its uses, with directions for forming artificial watering-places. We advise placing a little bank of mud on one side of the water, rising six or eight inches above it, into which the water will rise by capillary attraction, and let the bees take their choice and alight upon the mud or stones.

Writers on the management of bees have hitherto given no elucidation of the necessity of bees having water within their convenient reach, beyond the simple assertion, that they either should have water placed daily in pans near the apiary, or that they should be situated near to some stream, lake, or river of fresh water. What the effect would be to have no water within the ordinary range of their flight, has never been shown; perhaps for the reason, that an apiary cannot be placed where the bees cannot find fresh water in some place, within the range of their flight, unless it be in a desert. Even the wells of the neighborhood frequently afford all the water that is required, from the drippings of the bucket, or from the troughs that often stand beside them.

I have often seen bees around my own well, in great numbers, extracting the moisture from the outside of the bucket, or arranged along the gently-sloping sides of a trough, that I had placed there expressly for them. Bees do not like to descend the vertical sides of a bucket, or of any other vessel, to obtain water; because there is danger of falling in; but a sloping, shallow trough, the sides of which form an angle of from thirty to forty-five degrees with the horizon, suits them much better.

Every bee-keeper should either afford his bees a supply of water at his pump, or well, or place a shallow vessel near the apiary, filled with small stones, about the size of a pigeon's egg, in order to give a resting place for the bees; and the vessel then to be filled with fresh water every morning, unless there be a stream of fresh water near, in which case, both modes might be dispensed with. A tin baking pan, about an inch or more deep, is very suitable. Should no stones be put into the pan, many bees would be drowned. I have even known many to be drowned, in cool spring weather, when the stones in the pan were so large, as to admit of spaces or surfaces of water only two inches across! One would suppose that so small a space as this would be overcome by the bees at once; and when losing a foothold, and falling into the water, they would cross to the stones, and soon be on the wing again; but such is not the case in cool weather, such as we generally have from March to June. In *very* warm weather, fewer bees, under the same circumstances, would perish; yet water is so benumbing to them, at almost any season, that when once immersed, they seldom recover, unless assisted by man in placing them in some warm, sunny place to dry.

Fastolff.

Franconia.

THE RASPBERRY.

The cultivation of the raspberry, in this country, is comparatively a new thing, and the subject receives but little attention; yet it is well worthy the regard of all who raise their own fruit, or raise for the market, in the vicinity of cities and towns. The raspberry will flourish on any good tillage in good condition for common farm crops. But the best soil is a deep sandy or gravelly loam, tolerably moist.

The stools or hills may be set about four feet apart each way; or, for convenience in culture, make the rows five feet apart, and the hills three feet in the rows. When the crop is off, the old canes or stalks should be cut away, and the new ones trained up to take their place. Then apply manure, and stir the soil thoroughly. This is a better preparation for a crop next year, than to let the old canes stand, and defer manuring till the next spring, as the new canes, on which will be the next crop, will be feeble for want of room and culture. It is a great mistake to defer manuring plants until it is almost time to look for the fruit. The manure should be applied in season to give a stout growth, preparatory to a large crop. The farmer would fail of a crop of corn, should he neglect to manure till the stalks are nearly grown, and then look for large ears on small plants.

Among the most valuable kinds of raspberries are the Franconia and Fastolff, represented above. They are both large and of excellent quality. The fruit of the Franconia is the firmer, and bears transportation well; therefore it is preferable for the market. Fastolff is very tender, and some prefer the fruit on this account. As they ripen at different periods, — Fastolff, July 15 to 30; Franconia, July 25 to August 10, — they are, in this respect, well adapted for culture on the same lot, forming a succession.

These and other similar kinds, such as the Red and White Antwerp, &c., need to have the canes bent down, and covered a few inches in earth, in fall, to save them from our severe winters. They are foreign varieties, and rather tender.

The American Black, or Black Thimbleberry, grows spontaneously in most parts of New England. It is vigorous, productive, and so hardy that it needs no protection; and it is easily cultivated by keeping the soil rich and loose, and cutting out the old canes, after the crop is off. It will flourish on any soil. As it is hardy, it may be cultivated with much less attention than the other kinds. The fruit is very good, but not equal to the red varieties, and, of course, it does not sell so well in the market.

The American White is like the Black in its habits. The fruit is not of so high a flavor, but it is sweet; and many children, and others who like sweet, luscious fruit, would prefer it. In its growth, it is more luxuriant than the Black.

Raspberries are excellent and wholesome fruit, coming in during the heat of summer, soon after the strawberry, when such light, cool, refreshing fruits are highly acceptable. They are usually very salable, and with good luck,— which is often synonymous with good management, — they are very profitable. We have seen an acre, with the stools four feet apart each way, that produced over a quart to the hill, which is more than half a bushel to the rod, or eighty bushels to the acre. But this is a great crop. The usual price of raspberries in the Boston market is from twenty to thirty-seven and a half cents per quart, at retail.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture has been aptly styled the master sinew of every great state — the perennial fountain of wealth. Rural labors are equally conducive to health of body and mind. The mechanic operations hold only a secondary rank; the culture of the fields constitute the most natural and innocent employment of man. Agriculture clothes our land with grass for cattle and with the herb for man. She fills our houses with plenty, our hearts with gladness, and puts into our hands the staff of life. The ancient republics afford us several instances of generals and statesmen having exchanged their boisterous employments in war and politics for the more peaceful arts of the field and the cultivation of the ground; thus adding to the culture of philosophy that of rural economy, and rendering themselves doubly serviceable to their country.

Preservation of Lambs from Vermin. — An ointment made of gunpowder, brimstone, and common grease, applied behind the necks of the lambs, will infallibly preserve them from all kinds of vermin. The quantity requisite is so small, that a sixpenny worth is sufficient to dress two hundred lambs. — *French Paper.*

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

Much has been said, and more, perhaps, written, of late, upon the subject of an agricultural school. But, as yet, we have seen no plan proposed, which, to our mind, meets the wants of the public.

An agricultural school does not convey an idea of what we want; nor does an agricultural college convey any more definitely the true object to be gained.

It is conceded that our colleges and universities, so far as being of any practical use to the farmer or the mechanic, in the education of his son, are a total failure. The whole system is the relic of that age when education was only for the rich and noble of an older country. Men, in those days, were educated to be gentlemen; manual labor was a mark of servitude, and, as such, held to be without the pale of gentility. Those who followed it would not be tolerated among those higher and refined classes. The collegian rarely went from the plough or workshop, and more rarely went back to them. Colleges have been, and are now, the seminaries for educating men for professions; and as such they are probably well fitted to do their duty. In this state, they have been largely, in some instances prodigally, endowed.

It is, however, a lamentable fact, that there is not an institution in the Union, where a student can receive a thoroughly practical education — one that will prepare him for filling the duties of an American citizen, if taken from the farm or the workshop. The Military Academy at West Point is eminently practical, but it is only intended to teach the science of war, with all its kindred branches. It will make good soldiers or engineers; but it will not make good farmers or mechanics, though it is certain that a graduate there would be far better prepared for either than a graduate from any college in the Union.

We want, then, an institution that will be to the farmer and mechanic what West Point is to the soldier. While it fits him for the proper and understanding discharge of his duties as a citizen, it should also prepare him for the particular branch of business he is to follow through life. We would not educate him as farmer or mechanic, but we would so educate him that he could be either, and he could be so too understandingly.

We are glad to see among the commission who have this subject in charge, some of enlarged views and practical knowledge, and have hopes they will be able to report a system perfect in its detail. But still we much doubt whether the public is fully prepared to go into the subject with that liberality which will insure it complete success. To carry out any plan that would at all be worthy of the cause, would require a permanent investment of at least a half a million of dollars — an inconsiderable sum, when compared with the millions which have been sunk and lost by improvident legislation; but still we fear that there may be men found who would not be willing to go into this most important movement with becoming spirit. We shall hope for the best, and again recur to the subject. — *Wool-Grower.*

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — We are pleased with the independent tone and good sense which Mr. Peters has exhibited in the preceding article. While the subject of agricultural schools is under consideration by the legislatures of different states, we hope that practical men will speak out their sentiments, that when schools are established they may be placed under the management of men who are distinguished for their general intelligence, economy, and practical knowledge.

If agricultural schools are to be managed by men who spend money in farming, then the student will learn to regard taste and fancy, and get into habits of extravagance, so that he will need a competency to enable him to farm, and that he would soon spend, instead of accumulating property and gaining a competency. Industry and strict economy are necessary to success in farming, and these habits must be acquired by experience.

POWER OF INSECTS.

We find in Chambers's Journal an article on the "Importance of the Significant," which treats, among other things, of the destructive power of insects. The writer says —

When countries have been shaved of their increase, whole kings and councils have been perplexed, and whole nations have trembled at the sound of an insect's wing, we are justified in giving their deeds a record in this place, and on this occasion. Let him who can count the leaves of the thickest forest, despise, if he can, the powers of that legion of caterpillars of which Reaumur speaks as having brought a premature winter upon a dense wood in France which he visited. Every tree was overrun with them; and in a brief time, from the refreshing green of spring, the whole scene assumed the parched, brown aspect of autumn. Such was the alarm excited, that an act of government was called forth, decreeing that every body should assist in the extermination of the insects. But they were not to be annihilated by "acts of parliament;" cold and rain killed them. The Hessian fly, supposed to be carried by the far less formidable Hessian troops from Germany, committed, for a length of time, the most awful ravages in North America. At one period it was thought they would annihilate the culture of wheat altogether. They came in enormous numbers, thickening the very air, crossing lakes and rivers like a cloud. In a tumbler of beer, five hundred met with death by drowning! The privy council, we are told, met day by day to consult what measures could be adopted to destroy these ravagers. Expresses were despatched to France, Austria, Prussia, and America for full information; and the minutes of the council and the necessary documents fill upwards of two hundred pages. All this is about an insignificant fly!

The weevils, likewise, have an evil name for their destroying powers. Every voyager knows them, and has watched their manœuvres in his biscuits, or has been on the point of swallowing them in his soup. A great brewer used to say that he collected them out of his granaries by bushels; which cannot be wondered at, when we remember that a single pair will, in the course of a year, become surrounded with a family of six thousand. Our grapes are often cut down for us, and withered before their time, by the larvæ of other insects. In the course of the last century, they multiplied so excessively in Sweden, that numbers of the meadows became white and dry, as if scorched. The larvæ of our childhood's friend, "Daddy-long-legs," some years ago, entirely destroyed hundreds of acres of the richest pasture-land, all becoming dry and dead. A piece of turf, a square foot in size, when examined, contained the enormous number of two hundred and ten grubs.

After all, what are these to locusts, that oppressive scourge with which Providence occasionally visits nations? To quote a single instance: In Russia, in 1650, they came at three points in vast multitudes; they darkened the very air, covered the earth, and in some places their dead bodies formed a stratum four inches deep; the trees literally bent under them, and

were of course stripped clean in very little time. On one occasion, they were said to be the indirect cause of the death of about a million of men and animals. Surely, here is a display of power which redeems insects from the stigma of insignificance. — *Selected.*

BLIND DITCHES.

As agriculture, and every thing else connected with the tillage of the soil, is every day becoming more and more an object of solicitude amongst the farming community, it is gratifying to see a portion of your excellent paper devoted to that important subject. The extended circulation of the Dollar Newspaper makes it a medium through which the different sections of our country may be mutually benefited, by the scientific knowledge and practical experience of each other. The productions of the soil being the source from which the human family is fed and clothed, and from which the elegancies as well as the luxuries of life are derived, it is important that the best methods of preparing and cultivating the soil, should be well understood by every farmer. It is a subject of regret that farmers in general are not better educated, "in order," as a certain writer expresses it, "to make the profession more respectable." But we must take things as they are, and not as we would wish. We will leave to the chemist to analyze the various kinds of soils, and tell their different qualities, while we practical farmers give our experience in our own way, no matter how much it smells of the soil. But to the subject.

A large portion of the land in Indiana, as well as some other of the Western States, is technically called "flat woods," "wet land," "black slashes," &c. This land, particularly the black slashes, is the most valuable land in the country. First, it is the best timbered. Second, it requires less labor to enrich it, as it retains whatever substance is put on it better than the dry land; for this reason, there is less gravel and sand in it. I think there is no observing or thinking farmer in Indiana but will admit the truth of this; hence the advantage of draining it is apparent to all. The best mode of draining this land is beginning to exercise the minds and bodies of the farmers in this section. So far as has come under my observation, trenches are dug eighteen inches wide, and to average the same in depth, then covered first with boards, and then with earth, so that they can be ploughed over. This is what is called blind ditching, and it has been found to dry the land sufficiently for the raising of any kind of grain. But how long will the wood work in the ditch last? is a question not yet solved by experience in this vicinity. The oldest ditch I know of was made ten years ago. Some think the timber will soon rot; others think it will last a long time. Will some of the farmers of older states give us their experience in the matter, tell us how long oak timber will last under ground, that kind of timber being more plenty on our wet land than any other; and I think the subject one of great importance to the west — vastly more important than the discovery of a gold mine would be.

C. S.

Hartsville, Indiana, 1849.
— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

ACORNS.

The fruit of the red, white, and yellow oak constitutes an excellent and palatable food for swine, and in seasons when it is abundant, may be gathered in almost any quantity and at small expense. Where there are extensive forests of these valuable trees, it is common for farmers in the vicinity to turn their swine into them as soon as the acorns begin to fall, and allow them a free range till late in the fall. In this way, a very considerable saving is effected, as the animals not only "get their own living," to adopt a rustic phrase, but frequently return to the pen in much better condition than when they went out. Some farmers gather acorns as a winter feed for their swine, and regard them as about equal to corn, bushel for bushel. In plentiful seasons, an industrious man will gather two or three bushels, often more, of red oak in a day, and from one to two of the other kinds. One thing is certain: whatever may be the specific or relative value of acorns, swine will winter well on them without the assistance of other food; and in several instances pork of a very fine quality has been made on uncooked acorns, and in as short a period as is generally consumed in fattening on corn or meal.

Reckoning acorns at the common price of corn, and supposing one hand to gather, on an average, two bushels per day, the business will be seen at once to be profitable, and especially so in seasons when the corn crop is short, and its place is to be supplied by other food. That the acorn constitutes a large proportion of nutritive matter, is a position that has already been abundantly proved. According to a recent analysis, it contains of soluble nutritive matter, sixty parts; of starch, forty do.; of vegetable fibrin or albumen, twenty-seven do.; of saccharine matter, two do. The analysis was made by a distinguished chemist, and is no doubt substantially correct. The acorns submitted to his examination were not green, but had been two months dried in a free atmosphere, without the aid of artificial heat, or exposure to the calorific rays. By grinding and cooking, the nutritive power of the acorn, like that of all vegetable matter, would no doubt be greatly improved. AGRICOLA.

Lower Dublin, *June* 13, 1849.
— *Germantown Telegraph.*

SORE SHOULDERS, ETC.

Farm horses are liable to be injured on the shoulder or back with a collar or cart saddle. In these cases, styptics are commonly used to dry up the wound, which is quite contrary to the nature of this kind of sores. Lime-water and linseed-oil are what I have found most beneficial in these cases. It may be prepared in the following way: Put two quarts of water upon two quarts of unslaked lime; let it stand till the ebullition is over; then pour off the liquor for use, and add five gills of linseed-oil, and two ounces of sugar of lead. Mix them well together, and keep the solution in a bottle for use. When the animal comes in from work at night, the sores should be washed with soap and water, dried with a soft towel, and dressed with a feather dipped in the mixture. This process should be repeated every night till the sores are healed, observing to shake the mixture well every time it is used.

When a horse is injured by the harness, it is necessary to examine what part of it caused the injury, and get it removed by altering the stuffing of the collar or saddle, that it do not press on the sore; for if a wound be constantly irritated, it is hardly possible to heal it. Too few that have the charge of horses consider properly how little is the cause that irritates and injures them, and makes them either dull and spiritless or refractory and spiteful; and I would therefore enforce on those who work them the incumbent duty that devolves on them to adjust the harness for the care or comfort of the animal as much as possible. — *Selected.*

"Love labor," cried a philosopher; "if you do not want it for food, you may for physic."

Domestic Department.

Reward of Industry. — Every parent, and every individual who has the care of children, should be particular to teach them the habits of industry and economy, and the principles and importance of these cardinal virtues. This duty falls to the lot of the mother more especially.

In requiring children to work a part of the time, two important objects are to be accomplished — to accustom children to habits of industry, that they may practise in that line with pleasure, or from custom; and learn how work should be done, or the philosophy of labor; for children are great reasoners, or philosophers, and they should be encouraged to study cause and effect, the principles of action and the result; and they will ask thousands of questions to gain information, and the parent often finds it difficult to answer all the questions of the little inquirer.

In requiring children to work a part of the time, it should not be urged solely as a matter of duty, to aid the parent, to whom they are under great obligation, though this is a consideration of some importance; and the effect on their future welfare is also important, and should be kept in view; but the child should receive that encouragement which puts the whole world in motion — man, beast, bird, fish, insect — a reward for industry. In every region, and in every gradation in the animal kingdom, there is labor, and the motive is the compensation which labor brings.

The farmer tills the soil, the mechanic plies his tools, the sailor tugs at the oar and encounters the dread storms and countless dangers of the deep, the student labors at his books, the philosopher is engrossed in his investigations, and men of every profession ply themselves to labor in their art, trade, or science, and all for compensation; and the whole animal creation are acting on the same principle; and shall we ask the child to work for nothing, or only that which he already has, and which he knows that he has had from his birth up, by the affection and indulgence of fond parents.

Give children some reward for their labor. Let them have a compensation that they may plainly see that something is accumulating from their industry that they can call their own. This will cheer them on their way, and make their labor light and pleasant.

Currants and their Products. — No small fruit is more sure of a market than currants, as the manufacturers of currant jelly, in the large cities, are always ready purchasers, while the increased consumption of currant jelly will insure a continuance of demand. Currant jelly, well made, will always find a ready market in New York, and the other large cities, at from fifty cents to one dollar per quart, while currant wine, of good quality, sells readily at one dollar per gallon.

Currant Jelly. — Place the currants in a stone or glass jar, and suspend this jar in a vessel of boiling water until the currants are in a condition to yield their juice readily; then place them, while hot, in a bag, and press out the juice; add pure, double-refined loaf sugar, and then boil until it jellies: this point is ascertained by dropping a portion on a cold plate, and if it will hold fast with the plate upside down, it is done, and should be removed from the fire. Should any scum arise, it may be skimmed off. Put the jelly, while hot, into jars, and cover tightly. Our experiment last year resulted thus: Twenty-seven quarts of currants gave twenty-nine pints of juice, and with twenty-nine pounds of double-refined sugar, gave eighteen and a half quarts of very superior currant jelly. Those who suppose that currant jelly can be made with common brown sugar, or even with inferior loaf sugar, will find themselves without a market, as an inferior article cannot be sold.

Currant Wine. — To each quart of the juice of currants, expressed cold, add three pounds of fine loaf sugar, and as much water as will make one gallon; fill the cask with this mixture, and permit it to work; rack it, &c., in the same manner as cider; the addition of brandy or extra alcohol, in any form, alters and injures the flavor; and if the sugar used be thoroughly refined, the natural alcohol formed during its fermentation, will be found to be fully sufficient for its preservation.

The white Dutch currant makes of course a paler wine than the red, and of very superior flavor. The black currant requires one third less water, and produces a wine slightly resembling port. It also makes a syrup excellent for sore throat.

Boys' Department.

Books. — Books may be likened to a vast reservoir, and the reading of them to a conduit, which leads out a stream of knowledge to refresh and invigorate the mind. Reading, to him who is in search of knowledge, is a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, to guide him along an uncertain, dark, and rugged way. It gives a constant and vigorous impulse to the mind, and is as necessary to its healthful action as food is to the body. By means of reading, the treasures of history, the wonders of astronomy and chemistry, the beauties of poetry and eloquence, are opened to our view, to enrich our minds, to exalt and purify our hearts. The experience of ages is placed within our reach, and we have only to cultivate our memories to retain its treasures. It is true, much of this advantage and improvement is predicated on the judicious selection of books. If this be neglected, they may be the instruments to minister to a diseased imagination and a depraved taste, and afford as little benefit to the reader as deadly poison would to him who used it instead of healthful aliment. — *Common School Advocate.*

Little Kindnesses. — Small acts of kindness, — how pleasant and desirable do they make life! Every dark object is made light by them, and every tear of sorrow is brushed away. When the heart is sad, and despondency sits at the entrance of the soul, a little kindness drives despair away, and makes the path cheerful and pleasant. Who will refuse a kind act? It costs the giver nothing, but it is invaluable to the sad and sorrowing. It raises from misery and degradation, and throws around the soul those hallowed joys that were lost in Paradise. — *Selected.*

Health.

Cleanliness preventive of Cholera. — Personal cleanliness is a great preventive of disease generally; but in the cholera pestilence, it is even more essential than local cleanliness, if we would escape the scourge. It is not our intention to intimate that personal cleanliness is a general vice, in this or any other community of our country; but we believe it is not denied that the Americans, as a people, are subject to hydrophobia in an eminent degree — have a great horror of water, in its external application to the body. The rich and well-to-do in the world do not even indulge in the bath as freely as the same classes in other countries; and the experience of foreign-born physicians amongst us will bear testimony to the fact, that they find diseases prevalent among the wealthy which arise wholly from habits engendered by the neglect of bodily ablutions. If such be the result among those who have the means to prevent it, it is not to be presumed that any better state of things in this respect exists among the toiling thousands, intent alone upon procuring the subsistence of life. Every person should, at least once a day, wash the entire body. The practice will make manifest an improvement in the general health, both bodily and mentally. Braced muscles, invigorated nerves, a quieted brain, and a cheerful temper, invariably follow bathing once in twenty-four hours. A body and mind so prepared could encounter the cholera pestilence without fear of danger. Clean clothing is a certain sequence of daily bathing. No man, woman, or child, who is in the habit of daily ablutions, can tolerate for a moment any other but clean wearing apparel. The habit of bathing begets a feeling of hostility to uncleanliness in every form. The great obstacle to daily bathing, in the minds of most people, is the trouble of it; but we would remind the reader, that nothing, which is worthy of having, can be had without trouble. A half hour spent once a day in washing the body, would save many daily hours of prostration on a sick bed; besides, the indulgence in the practice will soon beget a love of it, and where men come to love to do a thing, it is always very easy, and is almost sure to be done. The argument in favor of personal cleanliness is unanswerable at all times, but more especially at the present time, because it is a powerful means of disarming the dreaded cholera of one half its influence and effects. It is never too late to begin a good work, especially when the enemy is at the door. — *Wash. Nat. Whig.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

The Time to cut Timber. — It has been the custom, in Vermont, for those who own timber to cut it in winter, without regard to the use to which it is to be put; but having so often seen posts, and rails of fences, as well as the timber in carriages, rendered utterly worthless by being worm-eaten, I have been led to inquire if the season at which it was felled, produced any effect.

It is well known that the bark cannot be stripped off, only at the time that the leaves are growing, and I think observation has universally established the fact, that timber stripped of its bark, and seasoned quickly, so as to prevent fermentation, is much more durable, strong, and less liable to become worm-eaten, than that from which the bark has not been removed. M. Buffon, the naturalist, presented a memorial to the Royal Academy of Sciences, at Paris, in 1738, entitled "An easy method of increasing the strength, solidity, and durability of timber," in which he says: "Nothing more is necessary, than to strip the tree entirely of its bark during the season of the flow of the sap, and leave it to dry before it is cut down." I do not suppose there is any advantage to be derived from the tree remaining standing; in fact, my own observation is in favor of cutting them down at once, so as to prevent their receiving moisture through the live roots. We all know how tough the twigs and shoots of the willow (*salix viminalis*) are when woven into baskets, as well as how extremely brittle when they have lain a few months, after being cut, with the bark on. There is an equal difference with the alder, white birch, poplar, as well as others.

If any man doubts, in regard to the proper time for felling timber, to render it most durable, let him try an experiment for himself in this way. Let him, the present season, cut a tree of the several kinds he is accustomed to use, at such times as the bark can be removed, and from a part let the bark be taken, on another part let the bark remain. In the autumn, and in the winter, let him cut still others, and let them be alike exposed, and a very few trials will enable him fully to determine the matter, and the information thus acquired will amply repay him for the trouble; or, if he wishes to determine more quickly, let him choose a small branch of each kind of tree, and use them for the experiment, bearing in mind that a branch too small may become dried in spite of its covering of bark. C.

Waterbury, Vt., 1849.

— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

By means of a chemical discovery recently made, it is said that oil of turpentine can be freed from its peculiar smell so completely that not only is it rendered inodorous, but it can be impregnated with any desired perfume, without deteriorating its useful properties.

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT OF CLAY SOILS.

Clay soils are distinguished by their adhesiveness. They stick to the feet when damp, they imbibe moisture slowly, but do not transmit it freely for the use of plants; and when strong clay soils are brought quickly from a wet to a dry state, they approach to the state of bricks previous to their being burned. Clay soils are tilled with difficulty when too dry, and when too wet, this operation has the same effect as the tempering of clay has in the art of brick-making.

The tillage of such land in a proper state is therefore of the greatest importance, and this is best performed when it is neither too wet nor too dry.

Poor, thin clays, upon a retentive subsoil, are the most unprofitable; the expense of their cultivation, under the present system, is great, being frequently equal to the value of the produce, and sometimes far above it. Their natural produce is coarse grass of very little value, fit only for young beasts.

Clay soils are best calculated for the production of plants that have fibrous roots, particularly wheat, beans, oats, vetches, clover, cabbage, grass, &c.

While the light, sandy soils have been greatly improved by the adoption of a new system of culture, the poor clays remain in the same state they were in a century ago, without any increase to their productiveness; indeed, they are rather in a worse state than formerly. It is therefore supposed by some agriculturists, that, as there have been no improvements in the clay soils, while there has been so great an increase in the productiveness of sandy soils, that the

clays are not susceptible of improvement with the least chance of a proper return.

There is no doubt but a better system could be adopted for the cultivation of such strong clay soils than that which is pursued in the common fields, and on the clays of Bedford, Huntington, Cambridge, and other counties, on the malm, gault, oak-tree, clunch, Oxford and blue lias clays.

The course of cropping adopted in the common fields, and on thin clay, is summer fallow, if dunged, wheat, and then beans; or without dung, barley, then oats, then fallow again; and this is the same as it was one hundred years ago.

The chief cause of thus neglecting the clay soils is the difficulty and expense of cultivating them, and of converting them into pasture, after having been long kept under this system of arable cultivation. It is difficult to convert such land into good pasture, but it has been overcome, and the best and most profitable results have followed.

There is a much greater difficulty in getting a poor, cold, clay farm lot, than one consisting of a poor sandy soil; the capital and ability required for the former being not only much greater, and of a higher order, but the risk is also much more in cultivating the clay, than the sand, as the mode of improving the land and securing good crops on sandy soils by claying is easy and certain, and the turnip and sheep husbandry cannot be adopted on clays.

Besides, the system of cultivating light sand or loamy soils has been so long established, and the Norfolk or four-field system has now become so much the beaten track, that it would be difficult for the farmers who have been brought up to it, to leave off, although a better one were shown them.

The turnip and sheep system, however, cannot be adopted on clay soils, till they are completely drained and subsoil ploughed, and till sand or light and porous matter be added to alter their texture.

Some new impulse must be given to agricultural speculations before the cold, wet clay soil will ever attain that degree of improvement which they are capable of, and which has been effected in the sandy and peaty soils.

The landlords should encourage tenants with capital and talent, by letting farms at low rents under improving leases, similar to the building leases granted in great towns; and binding them by certain covenants to improve the land by complete subsoil drainage and the application of alternatives; and by a proper mode of culture, to convert a certain portion of the arable land into pasture under a particular mode found to be the best and surest for effecting its amelioration. Permanent improvement undertaken by an intelligent and industrious farmer under the security of an improving lease is the best and most profitable mode of permanently improving land.

Perhaps Lord Kames's mode of letting land for this object is the best, with additional covenants binding the tenants to improve, by altering the texture of such soils as would be improved by it. It ought ever to be kept in mind, that the only true and systematic stimulus to improvement of any kind, is the certainty of profit in the outlay of capital. This is the main-spring to all our exertions; without the certainty of occupying his improvements for such a length of time as will enable him to reap the advantage of his outlay, we may be assured that no man will either invest his own capital, or be inclined to borrow money to be laid out in the improvement of another man's estate.

There is no doubt, however, but thin clay soils could be easily improved, and, perhaps, in a much greater degree than the sandy soils have been during the last forty years; and the surface may yet be seen clothed with a rich herbage which shall vie with that of other soils in producing the best cheese, beef, and mutton.

Clay soils will produce pasture just in proportion to the quantity of decaying active vegetable matter in their composition. If this be abundant, the crop will be rich and luxuriant; and the decaying fibrous roots will form a dry, porous soil, giving a sufficient depth for the rain to sink through the subsoil, where it will run off by the furrow drains. If there be little vegetable matter in the soil, the moisture will make the earthy matter in it collapse and adhere together; and it will form a cold, wet, sterile clay, producing little else but carnation grass, of little value.

Pasture on clay soils should never be converted into arable culture, unless the application of skill and capital will not only repay the additional expense of the culture, but also tend to increase the permanent productiveness of the soil. Without a proper application of skill, capital, and industry on such land, the converting it into arable culture will only tend to diminish the produce, if the free produce under the artificial culture falls short of that which nature itself afforded.

Much may be learned from the practice of market gardeners, in the neighborhood of London and elsewhere. They have two methods of trenching their land. When the soil and subsoil are good to a great depth, they turn the surface under and fetch up a fresh spit from below to constitute the surface for so many years; but when the subsoil is poor or strong clay, they bastard trench it, as they call it; that is, they throw the surface spit forward, always keeping it uppermost, and dig the subsoil by turning it over in the trench without moving it from its place.

Their object in thus trenching their clay soils is to get depth for the rain water to descend, and to give a greater depth of moisture to the roots of plants, and run off to the drain.

If we perfectly drain thin clay soil by furrow draining, and deepen the subsoil by trenching with the spade or the subsoil plough, making it pervious to the moisture which falls on it, that it may immediately sink to a depth below the reach of the roots of the plants, the cultivated surface will be dry; and if we reduce the tenacity of the soil by applying to it those light or sandy substances, which, when well incorporated with it, will make and keep the soil permanently porous and friable, then the land which before produced only a poor crop of carnation grass, or, if arable, of oats, will now produce an abundant crop of wheat, beans, oats, clover, and even turnips; and if properly laid down, and full of manure, will form a rich pasturage for any kind of stock.

When clay soils have dry, pervious subsoils, they become darker in color from the repeated application of manures, and under a proper system of cultivation, they lose their adhesiveness, and become a loamy soil, producing the most fruitful crops of wheat, beans, clover, vetches, cabbage, and naturally produce the best and richest herbage for dairy cows. The milk from cows fed on such pasture produces more cheese and butter than the milk from cows fed on a sandy soil, and of a better quality.

Any thing which will produce permanent friability in clay soils, such as sand, lime, burnt clay, loose, light vegetable matter, or long unfermented manure, will alter its texture and improve its quality.

When tenacious soils are completely subsoil drained, and a system of deep or subsoil ploughing is adopted, every time when the land is in summer fallow, if the soil be deepened and the subsoil made more porous; and if never ploughed when too wet, and a full portion of vegetable manure be given to the soil, and well mixed with it, a mechanical effect will be produced, which will change the

nature and texture of the soil, and give to it that friability which is so essential in all productive soils. The rain that falls on it will now percolate through it to the depth of the new-formed subsoil, and thence to the furrow drains.

The soil now receives the circulation of the air, which is carried on by the rains filling up the interstices which the air previously occupied, and the complete drainage draws off all the superabundant water as it falls. By this operation, the earth again receives a fresh supply of air from the atmosphere, which promotes a chemical as well as mechanical action in the soil, and hastens the decomposition of the air and water, as well as the vegetable and animal manure it contains, and thus a liberal supply of the nourishment necessary for the growth of plants is obtained.

Soil that is principally composed of calcareous matter, in minute divisions, becomes a most tenacious, stubborn soil; and, under certain circumstances, as sterile as the most worthless clay. Calcareous matter, therefore, although reckoned a valuable constituent in a soil, becomes an evil when it composes the greater part of it.

Calcareous clay, when thoroughly dried, falls to pieces like burnt lime, whenever it is again wetted. Every poor clay soil may be much improved by paring and burning the surface, after it has been completely drained.

This is the first step that ought to be taken towards ameliorating such a soil; and the more clayey the soil is, the deeper ought the soil to be burnt. When the burnt surface is mixed with the soil to the depth of the furrow, it acts as a coarse sand, and makes it more friable and porous, by converting the matter, which was before damp and adhesive, into a dry, friable, warm soil, permanently improved, and capable of producing luxuriant crops of every kind.

If we can get depth and friability to the subsoil of strong adhesive clay, we thereby prevent stagnant water from injuring the roots, and give to the plants the liberty of sending their roots to a greater depth in search of nourishment.

In all rich soils there is vegetable matter in every state of decay, and the greater this portion of decaying vegetable matter is in strong clay soils, the greater is its productive powers. Besides this, decomposing vegetable matter will tend to keep strong clay land loose, friable, and porous.—*London Farmer's Magazine.*

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — When clayey land has a moderate descent, it may be greatly improved, at a small expense, by ploughing it into lands or beds of two, three, or four rods in width, according to the degree of moisture, and leaving the dead furrows for drains, and making a drain at the head of the lands, so that the water from higher lands cannot run over them. In this way we have prepared lands before too wet, so that they are sufficiently dry, and in a dry season more sure and productive than common tillage lands.

SMOKING WITH SULPHUR.

In England, the fumigation of plants with sulphur, to destroy plant lice, aphides, the turnip fly, insects on trees, where the top could be covered or exposed to the suffocating fumes, has been for some time practised with great success. To most animals and insects the fumes of sulphur are almost instantly fatal. The *rationale* appears to be this: The smoke of sulphur immediately combines with water when brought in contact with it; and in this way, by combining the smoke of sulphur, in leaden chambers, with water that covers the floor, and is frequently agitated, the sulphuric acid of commerce is formed. Thus, when the fumes of sulphur are brought in contact with the moist surface of the lungs, or breathing vessels of animals or insects, sulphurous acid is usually generated, and the lungs refusing to act under such circumstances, suffocation is produced. Of this, any one can easily satisfy himself by experiment.

Taking the hint from these facts, it was proposed to attempt the suffocation or destruction of the wheat fly or grain worm by fumigation on its first appearance, and we are happy to learn it has been tried the present season with entire success. It is stated in the Amsterdam paper, (a journal on the Mohawk, in Montgomery county,) that a farmer in Herkimer has preserved a large wheat crop from the worm the past season, by using brimstone in fumigation liberally, while all around him, who did not adopt this preventive, had their crops seriously injured or destroyed. The brimstone was prepared by melting, and in this strips of old woollen cloth were dipped. These fixed on sticks, and fixed in different parts of the field, were set on fire, generally at evening. The matches were given in the greatest numbers to the windward side of the fields, and the offensive and destructive smoke, of course driven over every part, proving fatal to the insects that inhale the gas. About one hundred pounds of brimstone were used to one hundred bushels of sowing, and the preservation was complete; thus proving, in this instance at least, a remedy equally cheap and efficacious. — *Genesee Farmer.*

TO DRY A COW OF HER MILK.

Circumstances render it necessary to stop the lactescent action in cows; and when this occurs, all that is absolutely required is, to make a liquor by pouring into a fresh rennet bag two quarts of pure well, spring, or rain water: reduce the quantity of the liquid, by boiling briskly, to about one quart, and strain it. Then let it cool to a lukewarm temperature, and give it as a drink to the cow. In forty-eight hours she will be dry. For some days, her food should be dry and unsucculent — no water being allowed. — *Maine Cultivator.*

GROWTH OF PLANTS IN CONFINED AIR.

It is now well known that a plant flourishes as well, or better, when grown in soil in a transparent vessel, with the external air excluded, than when exposed to its influence. Mr. Leeds, druggist, corner of Atlantic and Court Streets, Brooklyn, has a monthly rose in a large glass jar, planted in the usual soil. This jar is hermetically sealed, and yet the plant has flourished, its leaves being of a healthy green; and it grows faster, and blossoms earlier, than any similar plant exposed to the atmosphere. It has been kept more than two years in this state, having been opened only twice to clean out the grass, which grows, also, more rapidly than from the pots exposed. — *Mr. Partridge.*

IMPROVED FENCE.

The friend of improvement in every thing, I deem it my especial duty to suggest to those who have lands to enclose, the propriety of making trial of a species of fence of which I have recently had a description, and which is said to be both cheap and efficient. The posts are made of common clay, struck in moulds of the desired size, and burnt in

kilns, the same as bricks. These posts are perforated with holes of the size of a common pipe-stem, and are either three or four in number, as required, and are made before burning, or in the mould. The posts are set in the soil, after receiving a coat of coal tar. Wires are then passed through the holes, from post to post, properly secured, and coated with coal tar or paint, to preserve the surface from atmospheric action, and prevent rust. This fence is cheap, looks well, and is very durable. — *Germantown Telegraph.*

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

Jewett's Lectures, Poems, and Writings, on Temperance. — Dr. Charles Jewett is known, in most parts of New England, as a zealous, devoted, and able advocate in the cause of temperance, in which he has labored most assiduously for about ten years. He has doubtless done more in this part of the country than any other man in this work of benevolence and philanthropy. His book is written in the independent, and clear manner, which has ever characterized the author in this useful cause. The temperance reform may justly be regarded as one of the greatest improvements in agriculture, saving expense, and preventing that hurry, confusion, and indiscretion attendant on excitement from the use of alcohol. The work contains 200 pages, 12mo., neatly bound in cloth, and embellished with a very accurate portrait of the author. Published by John P. Jewett, 23 Cornhill.

The Agriculturist's Guide and Almanac, for 1850. New York, B. G. St. John, 140 Fulton St.; Rochester, N. Y., J. G. Reed & Co. — The astronomical calculations are by David Young, who is distinguished for his profound researches and accurate estimates. The agricultural department, by a practical farmer, is varied, and, for an almanac, very extensive, containing a large amount of useful matter, with numerous embellishments and illustrations. It contains 82 pages, at the very low price of 12½ cents.

The Plough, Loom, and Anvil, by Skinner, for July, contains an interesting variety. With this number, the second volume of this valuable work commences. A prominent feature in this work is the able advocacy of the rights of the farmer, and his claims upon government for encouragement in that great and long-neglected interest, which is of more importance than all others combined.

FLORAL SHOW.

In the former part of last week, there was a most beautiful and splendid show of flowers at the hall of the M. H. Society. There were also fine grapes, peaches, &c., from the hothouse. Only a very few baskets of strawberries were exhibited, owing to a partial failure of the crop from dry weather.

Economy of Time. — The Chancellor d'Aguessau, finding that his wife always kept him waiting a quarter of an hour after the dinner bell had rung, resolved to devote the time to writing a work on Jurisprudence. He put this project in execution, and in the course of time produced a quarto work of four volumes.

THE SWEET BRIER.

BY BRAINERD.

Our sweet autumnal western-scented wind
Robs of its odors none so sweet a flower,
In all the blooming waste it left behind,
As that the sweet brier yields it; and the shower
Wets not a rose that buds in beauty's bower
One half so lovely — yet it grows along
The poor girl's pathway — by the poor man's door.
Such are the simple folks it dwells among;
And humble as the bud, so humble be the song.

I love it, for it takes its untouched stand
Not in the vase that sculptors decorate;
Its sweetness all is of my native land,
And e'en its fragrant leaf has not its mate
Among the perfumes which the rich and great
Buy from the odors of the spicy East.
You love *your* flowers and plants — and will you hate
The little four-leaved rose that I love best,
That freshest will awake, and sweetest go to rest?

THE OLIO.

A Blush. — What a mysterious thing is a blush! — that a single word, a look, or a thought should send that inimitable carnation over the cheek, like the soft tints of a summer sunset. Strange, too, that it is only the face — the human face — that is capable of blushing. The hand or foot does not turn red with modesty or shame any more than the sock or glove which covers it. It is the face that is in heaven! There may be traced the intellectual phenomena with a confidence amounting to moral certainty.

"The air is perfumed with the sweet breath of the new-made hay."

"I say, Tom, isn't it lucky that fellow's eyes are cocked?" "Why so?" "Because if they were a *match*, his red nose would surely set them on fire."

There are over a thousand princes in Germany, great and small, who receive annually from the people over two hundred millions of dollars; while a laborer works eighteen hours out of twenty-four for seventy-two cents per week.

A schoolmaster, driving oxen, and wishing to express himself in scholastic style, addressed his team thus: "Haw, *Buck*, and, *also*, *Bright!*"

Court the company of the learned and the conversation of the aged; their discourse is often more useful than any book you can read.

There is nothing more dangerous to the virtuous than association with the guilty who possess amiable and attractive qualities.

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18¾ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

☞ The Postage ☜

On this paper is only 1 cent, or 26 cents a year, within the state, or within 100 miles out of the state; and 1½ cents, or 39 cents a year, beyond those distances.

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